

## The Year of Sowing

### Prayer Guide

#### Week 31

### The Year of Sowing – Family – A Place of Commitment

*And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."*

#### Matthew 19:5-6 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** As we have said throughout this section on the family, the unity of the trinity is to be reflected in the family. This unity includes the fact that marriage is not a contract of convenience, but a commitment of lives to love and serve one another. The trinity is not a relationship based upon circumstances, but an eternal commitment to each other. It would not be God for the Father and the Son to decide to divorce. The thought is ludicrous. Yet when it comes to the family, and the marriage commitment, we lose sight of the truth that the relationships of the trinity are reflected in the marriage, family relationships. Unfortunately the Church has allowed the values of the world to shape our thinking when it comes to commitment in the family relationships. The world sees marriage as something that is easily discarded if it interferes with my aspirations or if the relationships become too difficult or inconvenient. with many trials and difficulties, Commitment is not based upon our changing moods or likes or dislikes. Commitment is based upon eternal divine truths. God has declared that with the joining of the husband and the wife, the two become one, and only death can bring about the separation of the two. This kind of commitment requires that all parties make every effort to love, understand, honor, and humble themselves so that the relationship can flourish and grow. All members of the family bear responsibility to give of themselves in this commitment, husband, wife, and children. As the family reflects this divine commitment, the church becomes an institution in society to demonstrate the faithfulness of God.

- Day 1:** Discuss together how the commitment of the Godhead could be reflected in your marriage and family.
- Day 2:** Take time to reaffirm to one another your commitment to you family and marriage relationships.
- Day 3:** Confess any ways that you have lost sight of this Biblical mandate in your family relationships.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord to help you resist the influences of the world's system, and live in true commitment to one another.
- Day 5:** Pray for the families in your church to renew their commitments to one another in the family.
- Day 6:** Pray for the families in other church in your city to understand this Biblical principle of commitment in the family.
- Day 7:** Pray for families serving on the mission field, that their family commitments would be strengthened.